

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 EB-07 IGA-02 DIWY-01 SP-02

OES-06 /049 W

----- 106356

P R 021543Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 662

INFO USUN NEW YORK 645

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 7136

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, PORG, RO

SUBJ: UNDP COUNTRY PROGRAMMING EXERCISE

REF: (A) STATE 285570, (B) BUCHAREST 2377

1. FOLLOWING IS EMBASSY'S ASSESSMENT OF UNDP 1977-81 PROGRAM FOR ROMANIA BASED ON PRELIMINARY READING. SINCE OUR RECEIPT OF DRAFT PROGRAM AT END OF LAST WEEK WE HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO CLARIFY OUR QUESTIONS WITH RESREP WHO HAS BEEN ILL. OUR RESPONSES ARE KEYED TO ORDER IN DEPARTMENT'S INQUIRY.

A. UNDP PROGRAM IS VERY CLOSELY SUPPORTIVE OF ROMANIAN DEVELOPMENTAL EFFORT. PROGRAM'S SECTORAL ALLOCATIONS DISTINCTLY PARALLEL ROMANIA'S OWN DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES IN ITS 1976-80 FIVE YEAR PLAN. IN GENERAL, WE BELIEVE PROGRAM SUFFERS SOMEWHAT FROM THIS LINKAGE. GIVEN ROMANIA'S OVEREMPHASIS UPON RAPID INDUSTRIALIZATION AND CONVERSE LIMITATION ON RESOURCES DEVOTED TO INDIVIDUAL AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, WE WOULD HAVE PREFERRED TO HAVE SOMEWHAT MORE UNDP EMPHASIS ON SOCIALLY-ORIENTED PROGRAMS.

B. ABSENCE OF ANY PROGRAM ELEMENT RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION APPEARS TO US SIGNIFICANT OMISSION WHILE ALLOCATION TO SOCIAL SERVICES, HOUSING AND EDUCATION SEEMS DEFICIENT. IN ENVIRONMENTAL AREA, THERE IS NO DIRECT UNDP ASSISTANCE BUT ONLY \$250,000 FROM UN ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM (SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS) FOR PURCHASE OF MONITORING EQUIPMENT FOR AIR POLLUTION AND SOIL DEGRADATION. IN EMBASSY'S OPINION PROJECT

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ASSISTANCE UNDER UNDP FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

AND EDUCATION TO CONTROL MAJOR SOURCES OF POLLUTION WOULD BE APPROPRIATE AND DESIRABLE UNDER COUNTRY PROGRAM'S CORE OBJECTIVE OF ENHANCING SCIENTIFIC-TECHNOLOGICAL CAPABILITIES. WITH ONLY 14 PERCENT OF TOTAL, RESOURCES DEVOTED TO SOCIAL SERVICES, HOUSING AND EDUCATION ARE, IN OUR VIEW INADEQUATE, AND INDIVIDUAL PROJECTS DO NOT APPEAR TO BE DIRECTED TO HEART OF PROBLEMS.

C. NO DUPLICATIVE AREAS FORESEEN.

D. UNDP PROGRAM REPRESENTS ONLY SMALL PROPORTION OF TOTAL EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE TO COUNTRY, WHICH RELIES PRINCIPALLY ON IBRD LOANS AND GOVERNMENTAL CREDITS.

E. PROGRAMMING PROCEDURES HAVE BEEN GUIDED HEAVILY BY GOR'S EFFORT TO COORDINATE PRIORITIES, SUBSTANCE, AND TIMING OF UNDP PROGRAM WITH 1976-80 NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN AS WELL AS LONG-TERM DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES.

F. COUNTRY PROGRAM IS EXCLUSIVELY DESCRIPTIVE, RATHER THAN EVALUATIVE. WE ARE UNABLE TO DETERMINE FROM PROGRAM WHETHER ANY PROJECTS HAVE BEEN DROPPED AS MARGINAL.

G. WE HAVE SOME QUESTIONS FROM STANDPOINT OF EFFECT OF PROPOSED PROGRAM ON U.S. INTERESTS WHICH WE HAVE ADDRESSED IN PARA 2.

H. UNDP PROGRAM CONTAINS NO PROJECT SPECIFICALLY DIRECTED TOWARD WOMEN, ALTHOUGH PROJECTS DEALING WITH UPGRADING LABOR AND EDUCATIONAL SKILLS WILL NECESSARILY AFFECT WOMEN AS MEMBERS OF WORK FORCE. PROGRAM WOULD BE STRENGTHENED IF TRAINING PROJECTS ABROAD MADE SPECIAL EFFORT TO RECRUIT FEMALE TRAINEES. IN PAST, HOWEVER, THIS HAS NOT BEEN DEEMED PROBLEM BY UNDP RESREP (REF B).

I. EMBASSY'S VIEWS OR ASSISTANCE WERE NOT SOUGHT IN ANY FORMAL OR SYSTEMATIC WAY.

J. NO SUCH ASSESSMENT HAS BEEN MADE IN CURRENT PROGRAM

2. SEVERAL PROJECTS INCLUDED IN COUNTRY PROGRAM POSE PROBLEMS, AT LEAST FROM SUPERFICIAL DESCRIPTIONS PROVIDED, FROM STANDPOINT OF OUR NATIONAL POLICIES. WE FEEL CLEAR THAT ALL HAVE ARISEN IN ONE GUISE OR ANOTHER BEFORE IN CONTEXT OF MULTILATERAL AID ACTIVITIES, BUT WE NEVERTHELESS BELIEVE THEY MERIT ATTENTION. FUNDAMENTAL QUESTION WE WOULD RAISE IS WHETHER TWO PROJECTS RELATING TO DEVELOPMENT OF NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY REFLECTS AGREEMENTS REACHED BY NUCLEAR SUPPLIERS GROUP AND, IF NOT, WHAT U.S. CAN DO TO HAVE UNDP APPLY THOSE AGREEMENTS. SECONDLY, PROJECT RELATING TO DEVELOPMENT OF INTEGRATED CIRCUIT TECHNOLOGY MIGHT

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CONCEIVABLY BE IN CONFLICT WITH COCOM GUIDELINES. THIRDLY, ASSISTANCE IN FIELD OF TEXTILES IN ROMANIA, WHERE INDUSTRY IS HEAVILY EXPORT ORIENTED, WOULD SEEM IN FACE OF WORLD-WIDE RESTRICTIONS ON TEXTILE IMPORTS TO BE QUESTIONABLE INVESTMENT (AND, IN CASE OF U.S., PROBABLY SOURCE OF ADDITIONAL HEADACHES IN FUTURE). FINALLY, WE ARE CONCERNED THAT AT LEAST TWO PROJECTS TO BE UNDERTAKEN (OFF-SHORE DRILLING, IMPROVEMENT OF AIRPORT FACILITIES) WILL SUPPLANT SERVICES/EQUIPMENT ABOUT

WHICH U.S. FIRMS HAVE BEEN NEGOTIATING WITH ROMANIAN GOVERNMENT.

3. MAJOR POINT WHICH WE WOULD HOPE WOULD BE QUERIED IN GOVERNING COUNCIL'S DISCUSSION IS WHETHER ANY OF PROJECTS IS CONCEIVED AS CONTINUING INTO 1982-86 PROGRAMMING PERIOD. AS WE INDICATED PREVIOUSLY (PARA 5, BUCHAREST 2377), ROMANIA HAS GOAL OF GRADUATING FROM RANKS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AT END OF FYP. WHETHER ROMANIA DOES OR NOT, IT APPEARS TO US THAT CURRENT UNDP COUNTRY PROGRAM MUST PROCEED FROM ASSUMPTION THAT ROMANIA MAY NO LONGER BE ELIGIBLE FOR UNDP ASSISTANCE FOLLOWING CURRENT PROGRAMMING PERIOD. ALL PROJECTS SHOULD THEREFORE HAVE BEEN PLANNED WITH FUNDING CUTOFF IN VIEW.

4. COPIES OF UNDP COUNTRY PROGRAM HAVE BEEN POUCHED TO DEPARTMENT (IO/CMD) AND USUN.
BARNES

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: izenbei0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BUCHAR07136
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760447-1018
From: BUCHAREST
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761276/aaaacnyz.tel
Line Count: 131
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 285570, 76 BUCHAREST 2377
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: izenbei0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06 MAY 2004 by woolflhd>; APPROVED <03 SEP 2004 by izenbei0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UNDP COUNTRY PROGRAMMING EXERCISE
TAGS: EAID, PORG, RO, UNDP
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006